Ramadan Lessons

Lesson 12: Repentance

Sheikh Khalid Al-Husainan

(May Allah protect him)



I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the accursed:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمْ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ * أياماً مَّعدوداتٍ﴾

O you who believe! Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was for those before you, that you may attain Taqwa. [They are] prescribed number of days."

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Indeed we are in dire need of Tawbah. If we were to ponder the life of our Messenger (*sallallahu alaihi wa sallam*), we would find that this subject, that of Tawbah, was a part of his daily life. A part of is daily life. Thus, it has been narrated in the Saheeh that our Messenger said: "O People! Repent to Allah and seek his forgiveness! For indeed I repent to Allah in one day a hundred times," and in another narration, "seventy times." Not ten, not twenty, not thirty… rather a hundred times, may peace and blessings be upon him.

If you were to say to someone now, "Have you repented to Allah today?" He would give you a strange and look with objection, and say, "Are you accusing me of some evil? Have you seen me commit adultery? Have you seen me eating usury? Have you seen me leaving prayers? This poor person has no idea that his Prophet (*sallallahu alaihi wa sallam*), in one day, would repent to Allah how may times? A hundred times, may peace and blessings be upon him, his family and companions.

What's even more amazing is that in one sitting, like this of ours, one sitting, the Messenger would repent in one sitting more than a hundred times. In one sitting, take note, not the whole day. In a hadeeth narrated by Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhi, in the hadith of Ibn Umar (*radi Allahu anhu*), he said, "We would," look at the companions, how they paid detailed importance, even to the lips of the Prophet (*sallallahu alaihi wa sallam*). "We would count Allah's Messenger (*sallallahu alaihi wa sallam*) in one sitting a hundred times: 'O my Lord, forgive me, and accept my repentance, for indeed you are are the Oft-Accepter of repentance, the Most Merciful'."

Everyone can ask themselves, "How many times have I implemented this hadeeth in my life?" That I am sitting in a gathering, and I seek Allah's forgiveness a hundred times. Subhanallah! For this reason, Ali (*radi Allahu anhu*) said, "Allah does not inspire a person to seek forgiveness, and at the same time punish him." He is saying that Allah Most High will not punish this person, if he is always seeking forgiveness from Allah. This is based on Allah's saying,

﴿وَمَا كَانَ اللَّهُ مُعَذِّبَهُمْ وَهُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ﴾

"...and Allah would not punish them while they seek forgiveness."

So here Allah Most His is addressing the Believers. He is not addressing the disbelievers.

﴿وَتُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ﴾

And turn to Allah in repentance, all of you, O believers, that you might succeed.

So repentance is a means of success, and a means of salvation. From the means of success is repentance to Allah. What is indeed strange is that some people are fooled by Satan. When he sins, for example, and you ask him why he does not seek Allah's forgiveness, he says, "I did it yesterday, and I may do it again. I don't know, Allah knows best. It's not right that I sin, then repent, then sin then repent, etc." A man came to Hasan Al-Basri and said to him, "Is any one of us not ashamed of his Lord, sinning, then repenting, then sinning then repenting? What did Imam Hasan Al-Basri say? He said something very profound. Words of gold. He said, "Satan seeks to defeat you with this mindset."

This is the dream of Satan This is Satan's goal, that he succeeds in making you despair of the mercy of Allah Most High. This is what some people say. They say to you, "It's over, there's no hope. Forget it… just keep on sinning."

No! This is not correct. Rather, when you seek Allah's forgiveness for a sin and seek repentance, Satan is overcome. You demolish and destroy him. Satan doesn't want you to repent to Allah Most High. Fine, for now, repent to Allah and seek forgiveness. He says, "Maybe I will do it again after a month or so, I don't know." Fine, but for now repent to Allah. You may die in these coming days, and you will have died after having repented. You will have died after having repented.

For this reason, it has been related in some hadeeth, in a hadeeth related by Abu Dawud and Al-Tirmidhi, and Hakim who said it is authentic according to the conditions set by Muslim. The hadeeth is Hasan according to some scholars, related by Abdullah bin Masood , mentioned by Imam An-Nawawi in Riyadh-us-Saliheen, and this is a nice saying, that the Prophet (*sallallahu alaihi wa sallam*) said, "Whoever says, 'I seek the forgiveness of Allah, besides whom there is no deity, the Ever-Living, the Sustainer, and I repent to Him,' his sins will be forgiven, even it be fleeing from a battle." You know that fleeing from a battle is from the greater sins.

So seek much forgiveness and repent much, and as some our our righteous predecessors have said, "Wake up repenting to Allah, and go to sleep repenting to Allah." This is necessary, as a person may be deprived of worship and good works due to his sins. Thus it is necessary that this issue of repentance becomes a part of our

lives. We should not believe that repentance is something only for open sinners and criminals. No. All Muslims are in need of repentance. From the time you wake until you go to sleep, you need to train your tongue, as Luqman the Wise said to his son, "O my son! Make your tongue in a habit of saying, 'O Allah, forgive me!' Make your tongue in a habit of saying, 'O Allah, forgive me!' For indeed Allah has fixed times in which He does not turn down one who asks of Him."

Imam Hasan Al Basri left us some advice, some golden advice. "Seek forgiveness much, in your homes, and at your table spreads," In other words your dinner tables. "…and in your marketplaces, and on your way," Even on the way and in the market, at work, and… Seek much forgiveness. "…for you don't know when the forgiveness of Allah descends." Make your tongue in the habit of seeking forgiveness. And look at yourselves as if you are in need of seeking repentance, that you are sinful, that you are deficient. Don't think that you are perfect. "Alhamdulillah, I'm better than others!" "Alhamdulillah I pray, I read the Quran, I pray at night, I fast, I do this and that, and I give charity!" No! Rather, we are in dire need, every day, of repenting to Allah Most High and seeking forgiveness of Allah Almighty.

This is what I had to say, and I seek forgiveness for me and you. And our final prayer is that all praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all that exists.

As-Sahab Media

Translated by

The Ansarullah English Team

www.ansarullah.ws